



14TH EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

Public health futures in a changing world

**Virtual Event
10 - 12 November 2021**



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10 - 12 November 2021

Public health futures in a changing world

**RESULTS
OF THE PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION**

This publication arises from the conference 'EPH 2021 Conference'.
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Summary of main results

A total of 2.048 delegates from 83 countries attended the virtual EPH Conference 2021 to discuss and debate the state of global and European health from the perspective of research, methods and practices. A total of 134 delegates (6,6% of all invitees) filled out the evaluation form.

Overall outcome:

84% of the participants rated the quality of the EPH 2021 Conference as excellent/good

Networking:

32% of the participants rated the possibilities for meeting colleagues as excellent/good

Participation:

46% participated in parallel programme sessions

44% in plenary sessions

Exhibition:

26% of the respondents confirmed they visited the exhibition area

Virtual 2021:

72% of the respondents rated the Virtual Platform as excellent/good

78% of the participants rated the information received as excellent/good

Abstract submission:

89% of the respondents rated the information to submit the abstracts as excellent/good

88% of the respondents rated the information to submit the presentation as excellent/good

Plans for the Future:

48% of participants will prefer an in-person conference

91% of respondents plan to attend EPH Conference in Berlin, Germany

Introduction

The 14th European Public Health Conference was unlike any previous versions, as – due to the COVID-19 pandemic – it had to be a fully virtual conference. The conference was originally scheduled to be held for four days in Dublin, Ireland. Because of the pandemic and the restrictions to travel and meeting events, the programme was adapted to a virtual event of three days, without reducing the number of sessions.

A total of 2,048 delegates from 83 countries joined on-line to discuss and debate the state of global and European health from the perspective of research, methods and practices. The conference included 7 plenary sessions, 11 pre-conferences, 125 workshops, 53 oral sessions and 23 poster sessions.

The theme of the EPH 2021 Virtual Event was ***Public health futures in a changing world.***

Public health has changed a lot in the last thirty years. Whole subdisciplines, for example health informatics and public health genomics, have grown up in that time. Has the core practice of public health changed? If so, we need to lead and shape the changes. We need to identify futures for our discipline and figure out how to get there. If we don't, others will, and that is not necessarily for the benefit of our practice, our practitioners, or the public. We need to articulate more forcibly who we are, why we are, and why we are relevant?

The world of public health changes, but many key pieces remain the same. A key part is to hold to that which we value, and to build on that, and extend out from that, to meet new and pressing needs. A focus on where we are, and where we want to go might be helpful for clarification. The relevant word is 'futures', and not 'future'. We expect an even more diverse public health, with the public health workforce delivering in new and more traditional arenas.

The 14th EPH Conference included the following sub-themes:

- Public health practice, training and workforces for the future.
- Communications and public health.
- Digital health – person centred?
- Learning from the pandemic and getting ready for the next one.
- Climate change and public health – a dual role.

EPH Conference 2021 was organised in collaboration with a vast number of national and international partners.

Each European Public Health Conference is subject to a multi-layered evaluation. The objectives of this evaluation are:

- to learn from our experiences;
- to improve the organisation of future conferences.

The full evaluation report is an internal document that is distributed to our partners and future organisers. This part of the evaluation, the participants' evaluation, is made publicly accessible on the conference website.

The results presented here are based on the evaluation by the conference participants. 2,048 participants received two emails shortly after the conference inviting them to evaluate the conference through a web-based questionnaire. A total of 134 delegates (6,6% of all invitees) filled out the evaluation form.

The questionnaire was divided in nine parts:

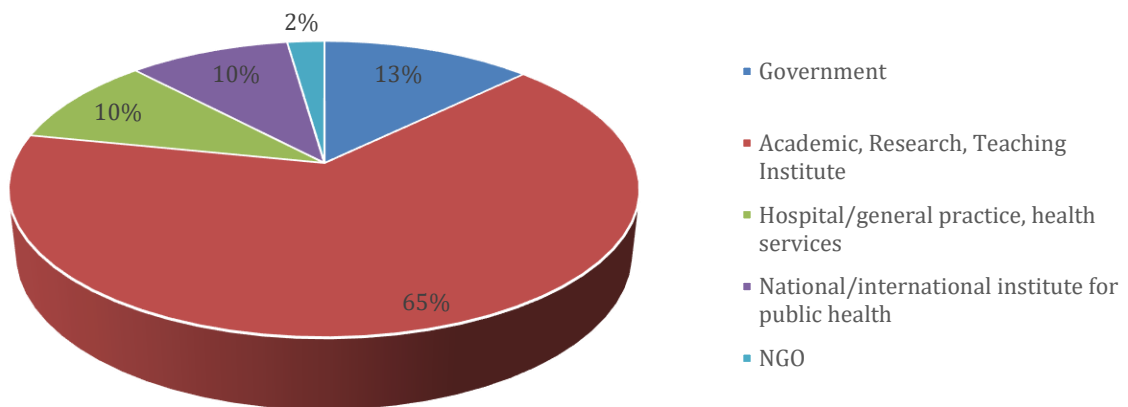
1. EPH 2021 in General
2. Programme
3. Your attendance
4. Exhibition area
5. Virtual EPH 2021
6. Abstract Submission
7. Plans for the Future

1. EPH 2021 Conference General

84% of the participants rated the quality of the EPH 2021 conference as excellent/good

EPH Conferences are known for the excellent organisation, the high number of participants and a broad programme covering relevant public health topics. EPH 2021 was no exception to this with 2,048 delegates, scoring high overall satisfaction by delegates and with a varied programme of plenary sessions, workshops, oral and electronic poster presentations.

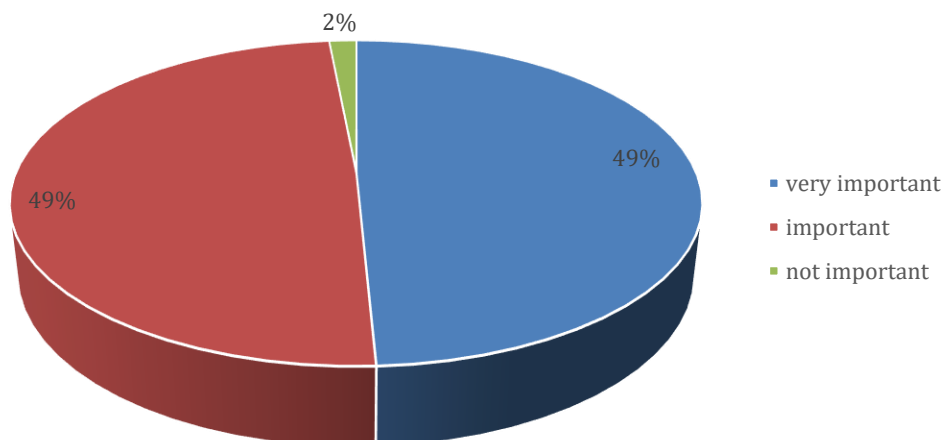
1.1. What is your background/work field?



65,4% the respondents had a background in research/academia. Otherwise, the professional background of the participants showed a balanced mix of policy, practice and training.

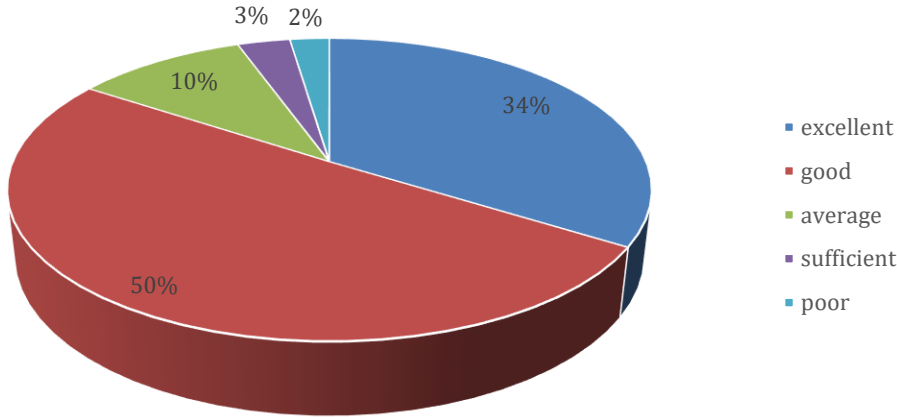
1.2. How would you rate the relevance of the conference for your work?

The theme of the 14th EPH conference was **Public health futures in a changing world**. 98% of the respondents rated the relevance of the conference as relevant (and very relevant) for their work.



1.3. How would you rate the quality of the conference as a whole?

84% of the participants rated the quality of the EPH 2021 Conference as excellent/good.



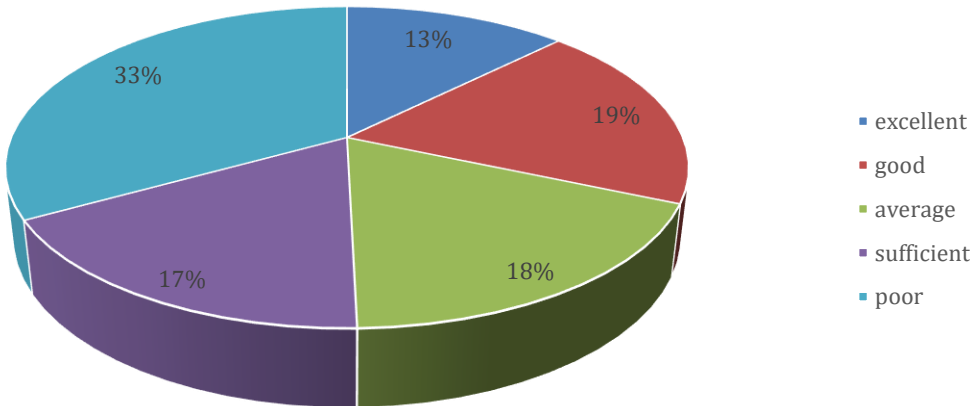
1.4. What lessons from the EPH 2021 conference do you take home?

The following lessons were specifically mentioned:

- Health inequalities are still relevant.
- Problems delivering quality education are across board.
- Increase in COVID-19 related research.
- Climate change and its impacts on health.
- Researching health workforce is relevant and important.

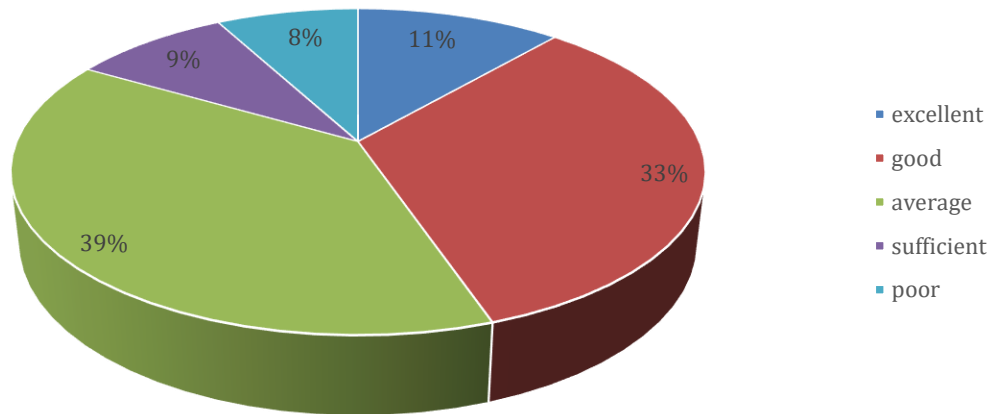
1.5. Normally, an in-person conference offers ample time for networking. How would you rate the possibilities for meeting colleagues at EPH2021?

Only 32% of the participants rated the possibilities for meeting colleagues as excellent/good. 33% rated this as poor.



1.6. How do you rate the commercial bias in the programme of EPH2021?

33% of the participants rated the commercial bias in the conference programme as good, i.e. well balanced.



1.7. General comments

Most comments received appreciated the scientific content and organisation. Participants had in general a very good opinion about the virtual event which allowed them to participate from any place in the world. However, the in-person conference is the preferred format as the networking opportunities of virtual events are an issue. Some technical issues were mentioned.

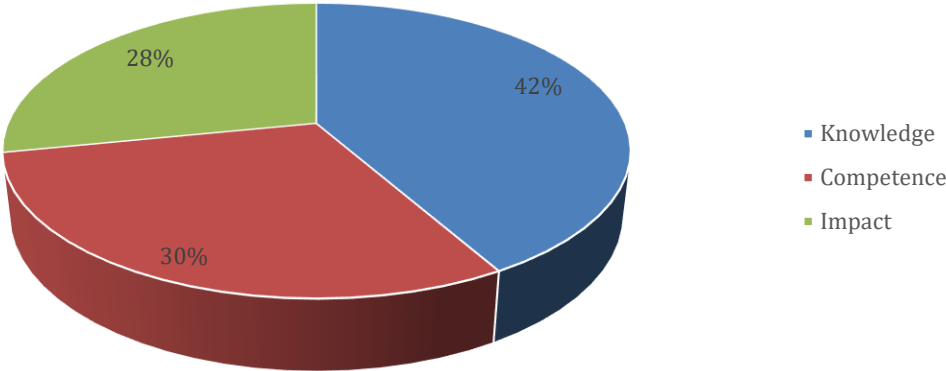
2. EPH Conference Programme

Many different sessions were mentioned as being highly appreciated, which highlights the good quality of the scientific programme. All plenary sessions were mentioned, as well as many workshops, pre-conferences, poster sessions and others.

2.1. Which plenary session was most interesting to you?

42% respondents indicated Plenary 2: Communication and public health.

2.2. Which aspects/domains were mostly influenced by this session?

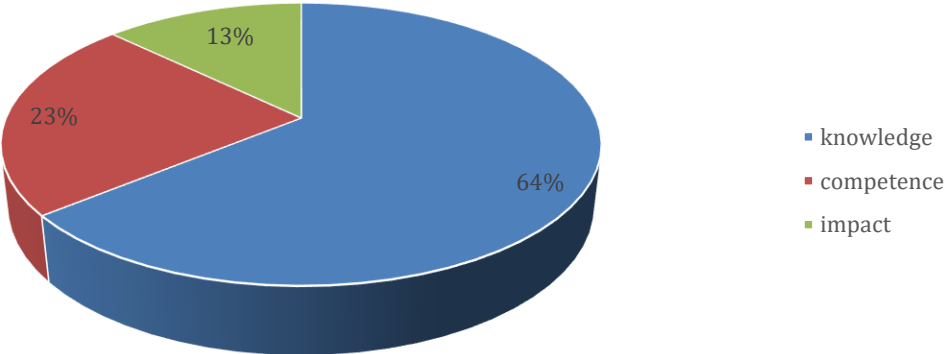


42% of participants indicated knowledge as being mostly impacted.

2.3. Which parallel session was most interesting to you?

This question cannot be summarised as there were so many sessions were mentioned.

2.4. Which aspects/domains were mostly influenced by this session?



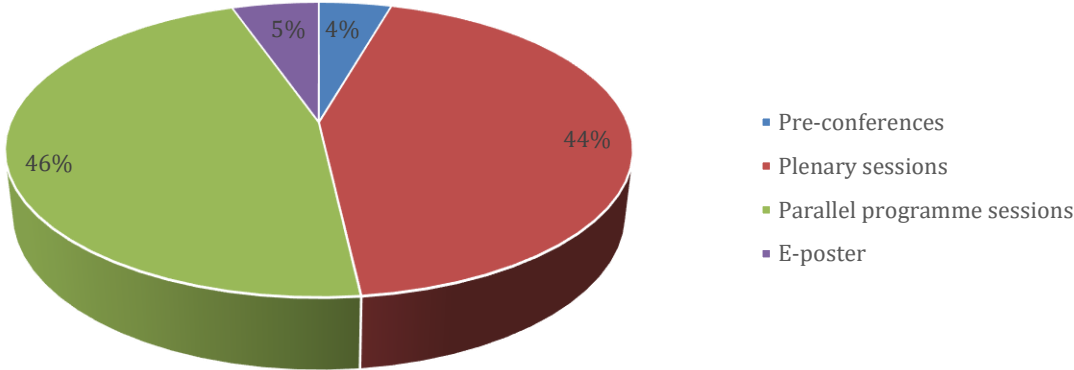
64% of participants indicated impact.

2.5. Comments

Participants appreciated the interaction, discussion and innovative character of parallel sessions. The social programme was also mostly appreciated.

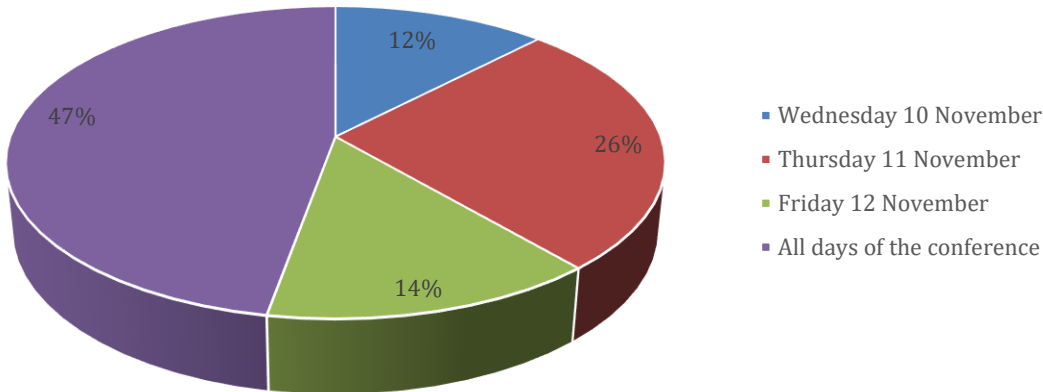
3. Your participation

3.1. Which sessions of EPH2021 did you attend predominantly?



46% respondents participated in parallel programme sessions, while 44% attended the plenary sessions.

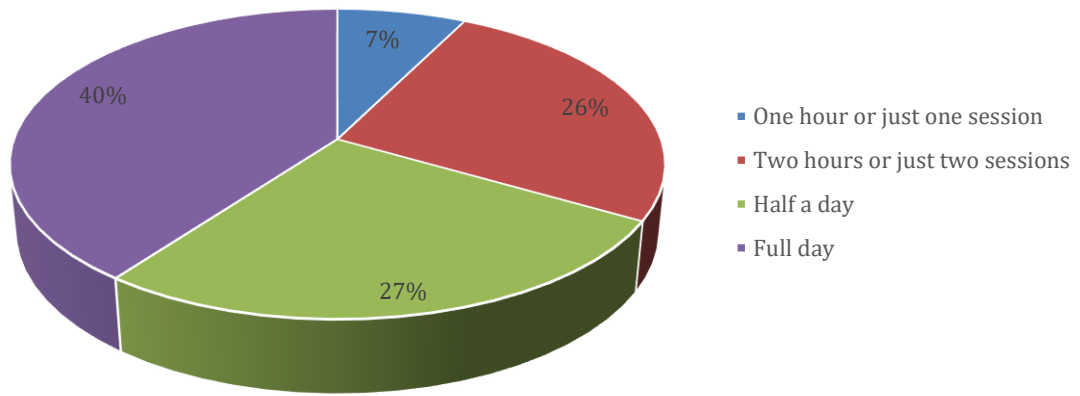
3.2. Which days of the conference did you attend predominantly?



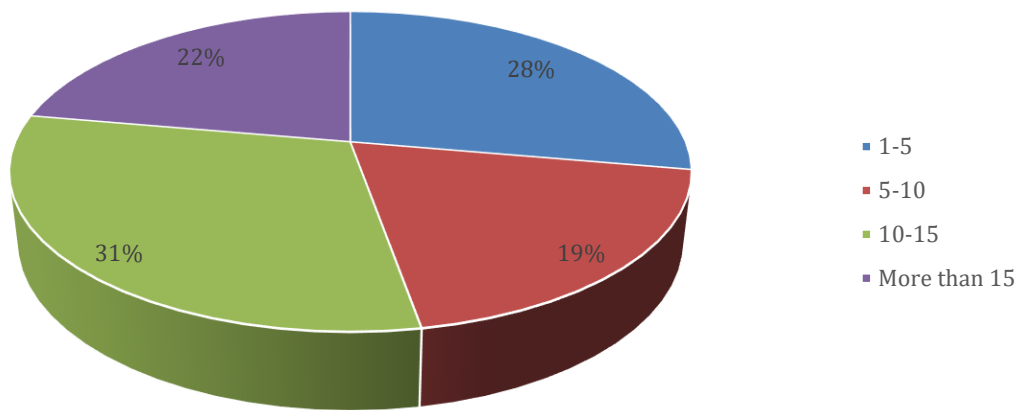
47% respondents participated all days of the conference.

3.3. What was the average daily time you were attending EPH2021?

40% respondents indicated attending full day.



3.4. How many sessions did you attend in total?



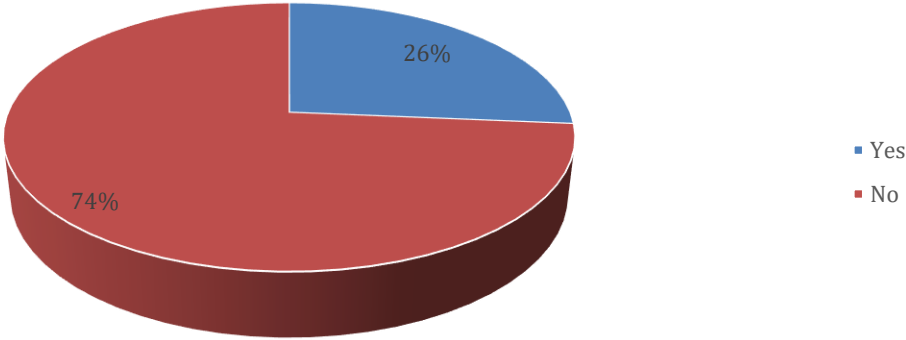
31% respondents indicated attending 10-15 sessions.

4. Exhibition area

26% of the participants visited the exhibition area

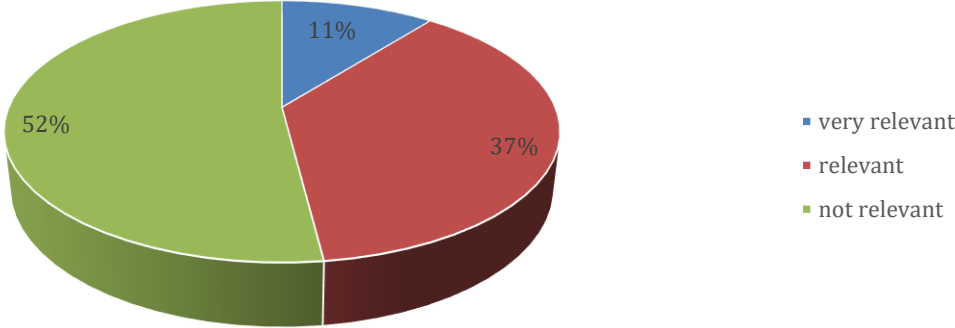
4.1 Did you visit the exhibition area?

Only 26% of the respondents confirmed they visited the exhibition area.

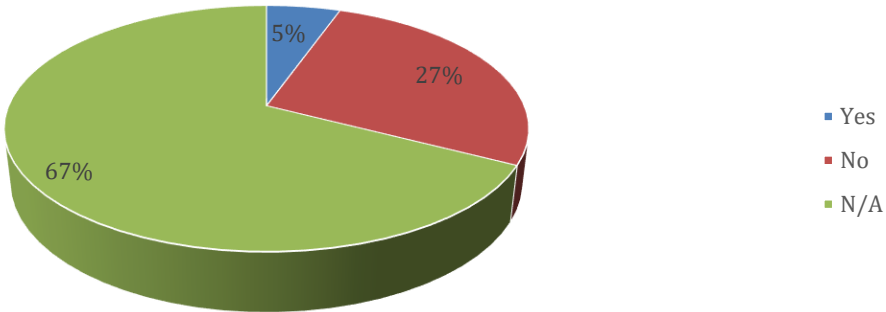


4.2. How relevant was the exhibition for your work?

The exhibition stands were seen as very relevant/relevant by 48% respondents.



4.3. Were you able to contact the sponsors & partners? Via the request meeting or chat option?



27% were not able to contact the sponsors at the exhibition area.

4.4. Comments

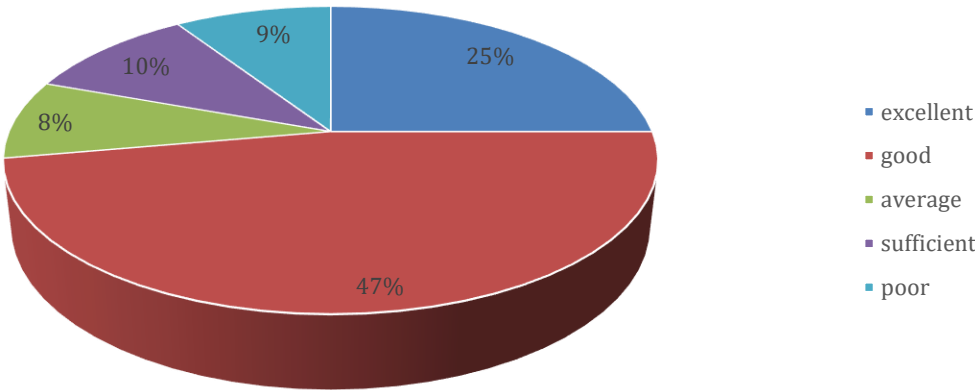
Some comments indicated that contacting exhibitors during the conference days was not necessary.

5. Virtual EPH 2021

72% of the respondents rated the Virtual Platform as excellent/good
72% rated the information received as excellent/good

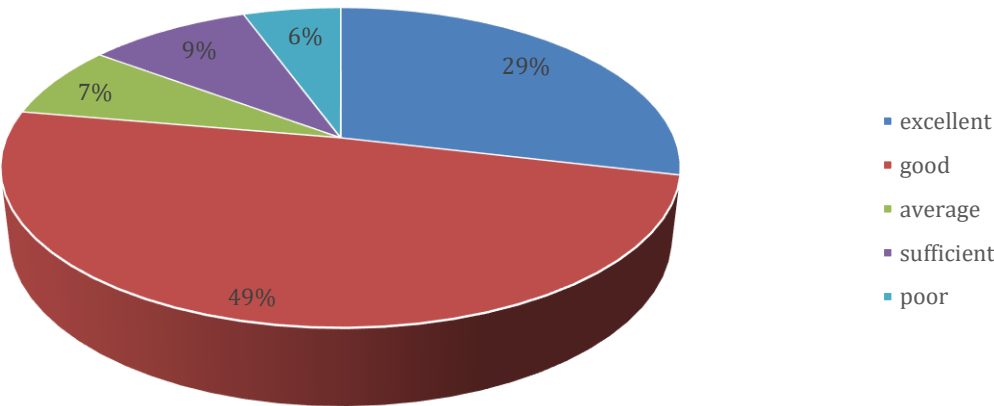
5.1. As delegate, how would you rate the user-friendliness of the Virtual Platform?

72% of the respondents rated the Virtual Platform as excellent/good.



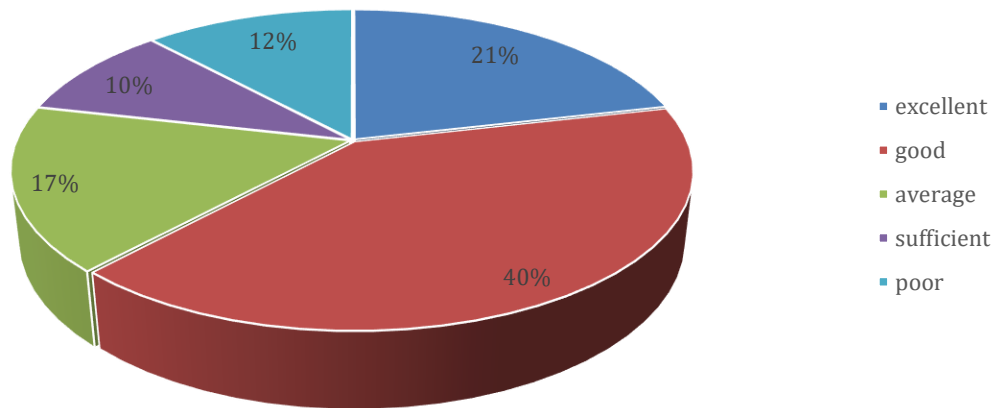
5.2. How would you rate the information you received to access the Virtual Platform?

78% of the participants rated the information received as excellent/good.



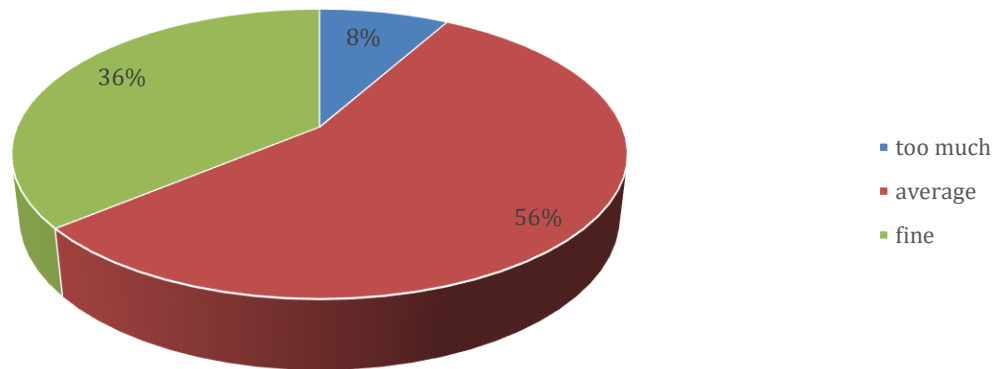
5.3. As moderator or presenter, how would you rate the user-friendliness of the Speaker Dashboard?

61% of the respondents rated the user-friendliness of the Speaker Dashboard as excellent/good.



5.4. How would you rate the information you received to access the Speaker Dashboard?

36% of respondents rated the information received to access the Speaker Dashboard as just fine.



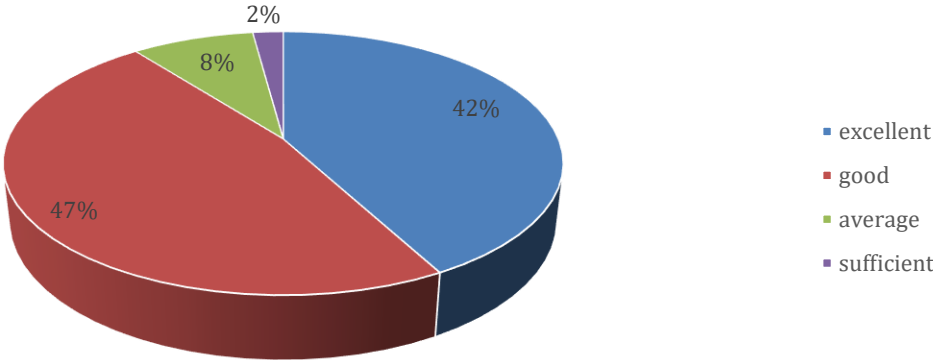
5.5. Comments

Participants appreciated the technical support. The Virtual Platform was well arranged, but still too complicated. The lack of technical competence among many session chairs and presenters was distracting, disappointing and a bit alarming. But the platform seemed easy-to-use.

6. EPH 2021 Abstract submission

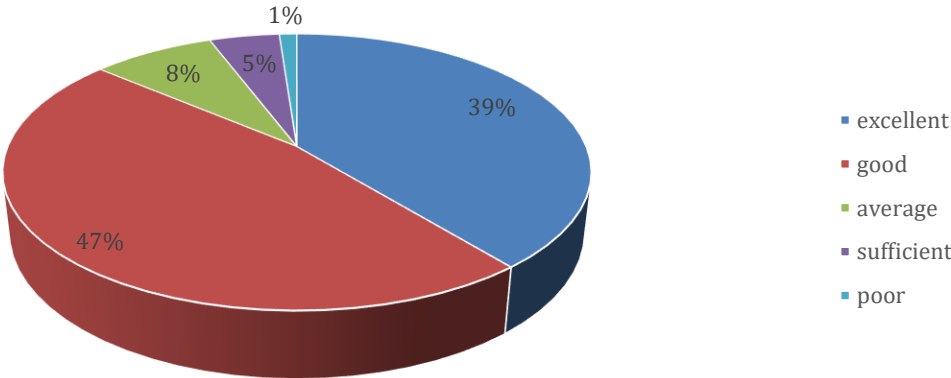
6.1. How would you rate the information you received to submit your abstract?

89% of the respondents rated the information received to submit the abstracts as excellent/good.



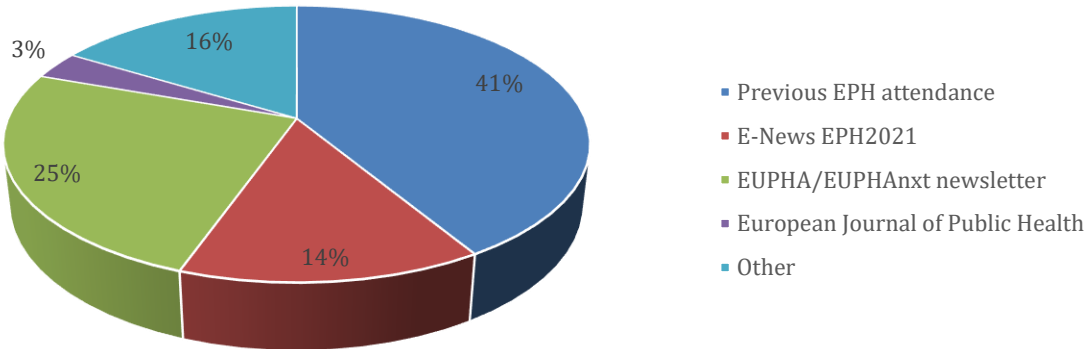
6.2. How would you rate the information you received to submit your presentation?

88% of the respondents rated the information received to submit the presentation as excellent/good.



6.3. How did you find us when submitting an abstract or registering?

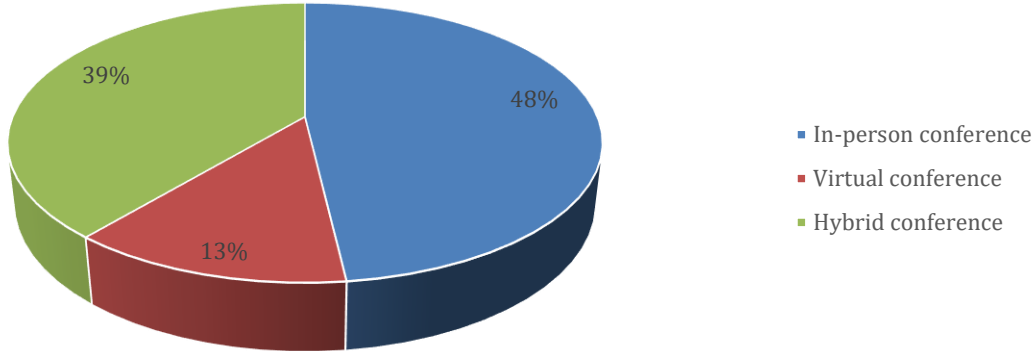
Most of the participants (41%) find the EPH Conference from previous attendance.



7. Plans for the future

7.1. What sort of future public health conference would have your preference?

48% of participants will prefer an in-person conference.



7.2. Do you have plans to attend the EPH Conference in 2022?

91% of respondents plan to attend EPH Conference in Berlin, Germany.

